

10/009,663

consequently all species of the invention should be prosecuted in one and the same application for efficiency reasons. It is respectfully submitted that all of the species of the invention represent similar ways of obtaining the same desired results disclosed within this application.

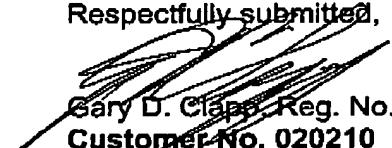
Notwithstanding the above, in order to fulfill the Examiner's request, the Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the species of the claimed invention shown in Species I. The Applicant therefore provisionally elects, with traverse, claims 101 to 138 and 160 to 164 which are readable on the elected species to be prosecuted on the merits.

The Applicant does not waive any rights with respect to the non-elected species and does not intend to abandon that subject matter. If the Examiner makes the election requirement final, the Applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected species be withdrawn from further consideration but remain in this application subject to reinstatement, in the event that a generic claim is allowed, or for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding election of species requirement should be withdrawn and examination of all claims pending in this application, on the merits, is respectfully requested at the present time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gary D. Clapp, Reg. No. 29,055  
Customer No. 020210  
Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.  
112 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301-2931  
Telephone 603-226-7490  
Facsimile 603-226-7499  
E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com